

Application Serial No. 10/534,927
Reply to Office Action of November 8, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-4209

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated November 8, 2006, the Examiner states that Claims 4-7 are pending, and Claims 4-7 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Belliveau (US 5,402,326). Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Belliveau in view of Niethhammer (DE 2,263,689). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses these rejections.

The Applicant thanks Examiner Payne for taking the time to interview the Applicant's attorney on February 20, 2007, to clarify some points in the Office Action. To recap the Interview, the Examiner indicated that she considers the center gear 62 of Belliveau to be a "holder", since the center gear 62 may be used to prevent the other gobo gears 76 from rotating. In other words, the center gear 62 may hold the gobo gears 76 in place. Also, the Examiner indicated that she considers the gear teeth 68 on the gobo gears 76 may be defined as a "driver" since the gear teeth 68 may be used to drive the gear 76.

The Applicant considers that the center gear 62 of Belliveau does not hold any of the gobos. The center gear is designed to rotate the gobos, and not to hold the gobos onto the carrier disc. The central gear 62 and the gearing at the periphery of each of the rings 68 are not sufficient to hold the assembly together, especially at a standstill or inclined position.

To clarify Claims 4 and 5, these claims have been amended to claim "a holder to removably support interchangeable segments with the gobos to the carrier disc". As mentioned above, the center gear 62 of Belliveau is not a holder that removably support the interchangeable segments to the carrier disc. Thus, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are considered overcome.

The rejections to dependent Claims 6 and 7 are also considered overcome. However, as discussed during the interview, the Applicant would like to place on record that it does not consider that Niethhammer discloses fingers 9 that removably support the lamella 10. As described in that reference, the fingers 9 are fixedly

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support the lamella 10. As described in that reference, the fingers 9 are fixedly attached to the lamella 10. A partial translation of Niethhammer is as follows:

The sleeve rings 10 (Fassungsringe) for the colour discs 11 (Farbscheiben gobos) are fixed at (Zwischenhebeln) by appropriate way, e.g. by rivets or welds. The intermediate handles 9 (Zwischenhebel) are three-dimensional, which means they consists of a base support 12 (basissteg) with two side edges 13 (Randkanten) which, as presented in Fig. 1, extend downwards (note of the translator - in the direction opposite to the attachment of a gobo). (see also the illustration on Fig. 2). The side edges 13 fit into slot-form recesses 14 (Ausnehmungen) in the colour-disc carrier 4 (Farbscheiben-träger) and are here so shiftless (unverrückbar) fixed, that as seen from Fig. 2, a fixing bolt 15 (Feststellschraube) is screwed through a centre hole 16 (Langloch) in the intermediate handle 9 into the colour-disc carrier 4.

From the above presented Niethhammer text it is obvious that the assembly comprising sleeve ring 10, intermediate handle 9 and colour-disc carrier 4 are fixed together in such a way, that for disassembly a tool is necessary. There exists no simple removable insertion allowing just for push-in and pull-out of the gobos as it works in the present invention.

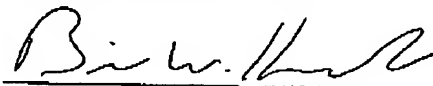
The fixed attachment by Niethhammer is therefore necessary since rotation of the colour-disc carrier 4 with the sleeve rings 10 and colour discs 11 would result in the colour discs falling out if only inserted (either directly into the handles 9 or through the handles 9 into the recesses 14 within the colour-disc carrier 4.

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In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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